

Dear State Coordinators,

The Homeless Education Disaster Assistance grant being administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is now open for application for a 30-day period closing on Monday, February 9 at 4:30 PM EST. Eligible applicants are LEAs or consortia of LEAs that had 50 or more students made homeless by a federally-declared natural disaster in 2008. The Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications was published on Friday, January 9. It is attached and can also be found at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/> by searching for CFDA No. 84.383A.

The application can only be made on-line via ED's e-application portal. The link to initiate an electronic application is as follows: <http://e-grants.ed.gov> New users must register before accessing or initiating an application. However, I am also attaching a paper version that was used for OMB clearance for your reference as well as two other files of information for the grant, the legislative language and our FAQ Guidance.

Last week we identified one small glitch after it was too late to change the electronic application, which is that the disasters for declaration numbers 1737, 1739, and 1741 actually occurred in 2007. Counts of students made homeless by them will not be considered for eligibility if reported by an LEA applicant. Coordinators in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska and possibly neighboring states might take particular note of this and announce it to your LEA liaisons. However, we expect that these severe winter storms probably did not cause student homelessness to the extent that flooding and hurricanes did.

This week, ED will provide technical assistance to prospective applicants via two media. A webpage for the grant is expected to be launched today at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/heda/index.html> Then, ED will host two conference calls led by Gary Rutkin for prospective applicants which State coordinators are also welcome to participate in. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday, January 13 and 15 from 2 to 3 PM EST for up to 200 participants each time. The participant passcode for each day is GRUTKIN (4788546), but please note that the dial-in number is different for each day.

January 13: 1-888-790-3139

January 15: 1-888-913-9972

If you are unable to join either call, NCHE will make notes from the call available on its website ([www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)) shortly afterwards and may be able to post an audiofile of the call.

I am the program officer for this grant, but I will be out this week monitoring. If you have other questions, you are welcome to contact the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Student Achievement and Accountability Programs main number at 202-260-0826 or e-mail me at [john.mclaughlin@ed.gov](mailto:john.mclaughlin@ed.gov).

Sincerely,  
John

John McLaughlin, Ed.D.  
Education Program Specialist  
Federal Coordinator, Education of Homeless  
Children and Youth Programs, and  
Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and  
Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs  
400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 3C130  
Washington, DC 20202-6132  
Tel: 202-401-0962  
Fax: 202-260-7764  
e-mail: [john.mclaughlin@ed.gov](mailto:john.mclaughlin@ed.gov)  
website: [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)